
CENTRAL REGION YOUTH COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE SERVICES
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 26, 2004
3:00 p.m.

Presiding: Paul Jackson, Chair

Present: James Andersen, Betty Barker, Joeann Bartlett, Don Johnson, David Melville, Akilah Messado, Rich Parks, Anne Peterson, Jude Schmid and Peter Smith for Janet Wolf.

Absent: Joy Gingrich, James Kilgore, Fred Peake, Jacinto Peterson, Gay D. Pinnecoose, Stephen Ronnenkamp, Kay Thibodeaux, Lona Walton and Julie Zimmerman.

Excused: Susan Archibeque, Jane Reister Conard, Brent Goodfellow, Bo Hall, Sandra Hemmert, Sheri VanBibber and Nathan Ward.

Guests: Lisa Boman of HCOP, Jane Broadhead, Kent Fitzgerald and Mike Gallegos.

Staff: Karla Aguirre, Rod Barlow, Tara Connolly, Leno Franco, Jane Gardner, Diane M. Lovell, Jon Pierpont, Verene Froisland and Vicki Varner.

Welcome and Roundtable Introductions

Paul Jackson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed all those in attendance. Mr. Jackson announced that Jon Pierpont is the new Central Region Director. Mr. Jackson then made the following introductions:

- Vicki Varner an intern working with Diane Lovell, is learning some valuable skills as she looks for a full-time job.
- Joeann Bartlett, Independent Living Coordinator with the Human Services Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS). Governor Olene Walker has recommended that all Youth Councils add a member representing DCFS/Independent Living
- Lisa Boman, Associate Director of Crossroads Health Education Center.

Chairman Jackson made the following announcements:

- The 2003 Annual Report for DWS is now available.
- Communications and Awareness, a subcommittee of the State Youth Council meeting, has been working on providing a State Youth Council Newsletter that will be published quarterly. The next quarterly newsletter will highlight the Central Region. If anyone has any specific items that they would like mentioned in the newsletter, please contact Jane Broadhead, Ms. Lovell or Mr. Jackson.
- The Department of Labor has designated a few states to act as workforce development mentors and Utah has been designated a mentor for Wyoming and Washington D.C. This is a wonderful opportunity and designation for Utah.
- The Central Region Council's Holiday Reception for Legislators, held on December 11th was very successful and several members of the Youth Council attended. The YES Promotional Video was also presented.

Approval of October 20, 2003 Minutes

Rick Parks moved to approve the minutes of Monday, October 20, 2003. Don Johnson seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". The motion passed.

Legislative Issues Update

Ms. Lovell stated that Sarah Brenna could not be in attendance, however, she passed on some good news. The Department is supporting or coauthoring three bills and at this time, Ms. Brenna believes the Legislature will act favorably on all three bills. A national appropriations bill was passed; however, state allotments have not been finalized so we don't know Utah's allocation. We are still awaiting WIA and TANF Reauthorization. Ms. Lovell then stated that she had hand-outs for members interested in the elements of proposed WIA legislation that relate to youth programs.

Jane Broadhead stated that WIA Reauthorization as it pertains to youth is also on the State Youth Council website – www.jobs.utah.gov – it compares the current law, the House's version and the Senate's version.

State Youth Council Update

Ms. Broadhead stated that the State Youth Council met on January 14th and talked about the Governor's Work Plan, which includes transition to adult living with a very specific focus on youth who are in foster care and youth who are aging out of the foster care system. The Governor's intent is for entities who are providing youth services to coordinate very closely with the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS). Ms. Broadhead then referred to a handout included in the packet that summarized the Transition to Adult Living program. The goal for the program is as follows:

"To provide youth assistance in transitioning from foster care to adult living through a private/public network of support, in order to promote their success. This assistance includes assessment, mentoring, self-esteem building, personal future planning, caregiver and family networking, basic life-skills training, housing, leisure skills, education, employment, on-the-job training, informing and referral, crisis support, medical, mental health and limited financial assistance."

Ms. Broadhead continued by stating that there was also a report from Tom Darius concerning the Going Home Grant. The DOL/Dept. of Justice grant is \$1.5 million and is earmarked to assist youth coming out of correctional facilities.

Ms. Broadhead then stated that there are two subcommittees of the State Youth Council - "Communications and Awareness" and "Council Functions". The Communications and Awareness subcommittee is working on the newsletter and making sure that interested parties across the state have an understanding of WIA supported programs. The Council Functions subcommittee has devised an orientation manual for State Youth Council members and is waiting for WIA Reauthorization before any additional work is done.

DWS Update and Performance Outcomes

Karla Aguirre spoke concerning the Central Region Performance Outcomes noting that all outcomes are being met and Central Region is within 80% of its planned goals. Ms. Aguirre then stated that youth funding is 98% obligated and 24% expended. Ms. Aguirre stated that there is a requirement that at least 30% of our funds be spent on out-of-school youth. Central Region has 56% of expenditures on out-of-school youth.

YES Contract Monitoring Status Report

Rod Barlow stated that the YES Program was monitored November 17-21, 2003. Sherri VanBibber, Youth Council member, participated in the monitoring process. Twenty-nine case files were reviewed and edited, youth were interviewed, internship worksites were visited and each YES case manager was interviewed. Cases edited reflected improvement over last year. Case files were complete and organized. To date, 95% of the monitoring findings have been addressed. Overall it was concluded that the YES Program is very successful and is continuing to improve. The Monitoring Team recommends continuing the contract through September 2004. Mr. Barlow stated that if anyone wants to look at the full report and recommendations please contact Ms. Aguirre, Ms. Gardner, Ms. Lovell or him.

Ms. Lovell suggested a written Monitoring Report Executive Summary be presented at the March 15th Council Meeting.

Recommended Allocation of \$38,000 Unobligated WIA Youth Funds

Ms. Aguirre stated that Central Region received an additional \$38,000 as part of its youth formula allocation, noting that the Youth Council should decide how those funds should be spent. Ms. Aguirre indicated that the staff recommends the additional funds be rolled into the YES Program contract due to the limited amount of funds and the need to get them obligated.

Diane Lovell stated that the Youth Council's recommendation would be forwarded to the Regional Council for approval.

Paul Jackson asked how the YES Program planned to use the funds.

Jude Schmid responded with three possible options: 1) work with foster care youth as part of Governor Walker's Workplan; 2) work with youth involved in the corrections system; and 3) use the funding in connection with the County's YouthBuild program.

Kent Fitzgerald added that the Youth Council supported the County's successful Youthbuild proposal last summer and with the loss of funding for the AmeriCorp Program, the \$38,000 could be used to help support the YouthBuild Program.

Paul Jackson reiterated the fact that DWS only contracts with one provider (County/YES) for youth training services and the DWS recommendation would be to allocate the \$38,000 to the YES Program.

Jane Gardner added that the WIA funds must be spent on "eligible" youth and the County's YES Program has the capability in place to do so.

Ms. Aguirre noted that determining eligibility is probably the most complex piece of the program and due to the complexity and myriad requirements it would be difficult for another vendor to set up a program and have the funds expended by June 30th.

As the discussion continued Dave Melville of Youth Corrections indicated that his target population is "eligible from the get go." He further noted that he organization has experienced some difficulty in maintaining a consistent relationship with YES. He mentioned that in the past, YES representatives had visited and helped youth with job search and interviewing skills but were no longer coming on a regular basis. Mr. Melville provided the name of a recent contact that he thought was from the County's YES Program.

Ms. Schmid clarified that the individual was not from the County's YES Program but from another youth services project.

Dave Melville suggested that perhaps the person was from the Granite School District but that in any case, the corrections youth need more job connection services.

James Anderson stated his concern that the Council was being asked to allocate funds on the same day they were notified of the funds availability and that youth organizations had not been polled about how the funds could be used to better serve youth.

Paul Jackson responded and agreed with Mr. Anderson in that the funding announcement and recommended allocation was "abrupt"; however, he indicated that the bigger challenge was getting the funds obligated and spent given the strict eligibility criteria and other complicated WIA guidelines. He indicated that if the Youth Council did not act, then the Regional Council would make a determination as to how the funds would be allocated. He then stated that the Youth Council should look for opportunities in the future to identify needs, suggesting a periodic analysis of the broader community base be done and the identified needs prioritized.

Karla Aguirre suggested that perhaps the YES Program could work with Dave Melville and use the additional funds to help address the needs of youth in corrections.

Mr. Melville indicated that by the time some of these kids get out of secure care they are 17, 18 and sometimes 19 years old and have immediate needs for job placement assistance, internships, apprenticeships etc. It has been difficult for his organization to secure assistance in helping the youth in transition and while they are on parole for six months to a year. They are at high risk and any services provided to help them retain jobs will benefit them and the community.

Anne Peterson suggested that DWS communicate with other eligible vendors/services providers about the existence of this \$38,000 and email Youth Council members regarding allocation options since there was a small turnout at the meeting. She further suggested that a conference call vote could then be taken regarding the proposed allocation of the funds.

Chairman Jackson noted that it would have to be done immediately because the allocation of the \$38,000 needs to be on the Central Region Council's agenda for February 26th.

Anne Peterson replied that she agreed with James Anderson in that she didn't think the Youth Council received sufficient notice about the funding availability and the options for its use. She stated that she would "not feel comfortable voting in favor of allocating the money today."

Paul Jackson asked for a motion and iterated that if the Youth Council chooses not to take action, the allocation of the funds would be decided by the Central Region Council.

After additional discussion regarding the restrictions on the funding, the difficulties associated with conducting and RFP or bid process, and the fact that the \$38,000 should have been part of Central Region's original WIA youth grant and would have been included in the YES contract in July 2003, Chairman Jackson again called for a motion. He added that DWS and the Youth council need to analyze community needs but that there is not sufficient time to conduct a study of needs in conjunction with the allocation of the funding on the table.

Absent a motion, Mr. Jackson stated that the recommendation would be deferred to the Central Region Council for action.

Diane Lovell noted that the Youth Council's concerns would be shared with the Central Region Council.

YES Program Progress & Highlights

Jude Schmid reported that as of December 31st YES has enrolled 170 new youth or 92% of its goal. The total number of cases for active WIA youth and follow-up youth is 424 or 92% of goal. Ms. Schmid then spoke concerning recruitment efforts, stating that over 500 mailings went to youth between the ages of 16 and 21 within the Family Employment and Food Stamps Programs. Additionally, ads were included in the "City Weekly" and the "Salt Lake Community College Globe". The YES Program now has a weekly presence with a participant recruiter at Horizonte. Plans also include a weekly presence at Central High School. The YES Program sees the alternative schools as primary recruitment resources. Ms. Schmid continued by stating that the YES Program will participate in the upcoming training Vendor Fair and plans to hold small YES Program Fairs at DWS Employment Centers. Ms. Schmid announced a the upcoming Groundhog Job Shadow Day, a national movement in its 7th year sponsored by monster.com and the Newspaper Agency Corporation. There will be about 50 youth participating in this activity on February 2nd.

Crossroads Health Career Opportunity Program (HCOP) Presentation

Lisa Boman, Associate Director for Crossroads Health Education Center opened her presentation by stating that the Crossroads Health Education Center is the umbrella organization for a 3-year grant (9/02-8/05) called Health Career Opportunity Program (HCOP). This grant is offered in partnership with two entities in the Salt Lake Valley, one of which is the YES Program. Ms. Boman continued with a PowerPoint Presentation to the Youth Council. The HCOP grant is renewable and the Health Education Center plans to reapply. The project goal is to recruit and assist disadvantaged youth to achieve success in a health care career. Ms. Boman went on to say that the program serves all of the high schools and junior high schools in Salt Lake City School District – the Salt Lake Community College is also included as the associate degree granting partner. HCOP also works with the Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College. Programs are free of charge to students who are qualified for HCOP. Ms. Boman mentioned that some of the other college prep strategies included in the grant are:

- College Success Seminars
- Mentorship Program
- Diversity Support Groups
- Health Professions Program Application Assistance

Ms. Boman concluded by asking the Youth Council members to consider HCOP when working with the youth.

Mr. Jackson thanked Ms. Boman for coming and providing the information about HCOP.

March 15 Agenda Items and Meeting Calendar

Mr. Jackson referred to the 2004 Meeting Schedule for March 15th that is included in the packet. In addition to what was listed for the March 15th meeting, Mr. Jackson asked David Melville if he would give a report concerning his place of employment. Mr. Melville agreed to give a report at the next meeting.

Other Business

There was no other business.

New Business

Ms. Lovell stated that the Regional Council would be holding its annual retreat on Thursday, April 22nd. All of the Youth Council members are invited and encouraged to attend. The retreat is being shortened this year to a half-day session. Ms. Lovell stated that she will have more information at the March 15th meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.